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The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

THE PANTHER

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Pageants remember African legacy

By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

During the week of March 18, two campus organizations held pageants to find representatives for their respective organizations.

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha held their first ever Mr. Ebony Debonair and the men of Alpha Phi Alpha produced the long awaited annual production of the Miss Black and Gold pageant.

The Miss Black and Gold scholarship pageant allows college-age women the opportunity to display talent, grace and style while in competition for a scholarship and the honor of representing the organization.

Originally scheduled for Feb. 5, the pageant



Kenneth Echols Jr. will reign as Mr. Ebony Debonair for 2001-2002.

was moved to March 19 by the Epsilon Tau Lambda chapter of the fraternity.

Curtis Wilson, chair of the pageant's committee along with Bridgett Dew, Miss

Photos by Gionga Mmbijewe

Black and Gold 2000-2001, and ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha and many others helped transform Hobart Taylor into a magical hall of fame, celebrating the life of Black queens throughout time.

Each of the six contestants, Lindsey Leverett, Stacy Lloyd, Kimberly Koledoye, Nedra Dotson, Haaren Peterson and LaKeah

Arceneaux illustrated the pageant's theme "The Quest for Ageless Beauty: The Rich History of Black Queens" throughout the entire production.



Winners Stacy Lloyd and Lindsey Levrett pose with the new Miss Black and Gold, LaKeah Arceneaux..

The race for the title was close the entire evening, but Arceneaux outshined the rest -- claiming the title.

Scoring was done on a scale of 1-10 in the area of swimsuit, worth 10 percent in the introduction segment, 30 percent in the talent portion and 10 percent in

evening wear.

The ladies were also awarded points based on their answer of an impromptu questioning and private interview. **Twist on old favorite**

Michael Hunter, Andre Randle, Anthony

See **PAGEANT** on Page 5

Fighting for funds: Amateur boxing match benefits sports program

By Marvin Anderson
Assistant Sports Editor

Some people claim to be concerned about the lack of funds for Prairie View, but it seems very few actually do something.

The exception to this rule is John A. Mayes, head trainer of the athletic department.

"Doc" Mayes has gone above and beyond the call of duty by spearheading a fund-raising boxing match here at Prairie View.

U.S. boxers sanctioned by Gulfoast Boxing must fight a number of fights as amateurs before they be-

come professionals and the PVAMU match will give them another bout under their belt.

The boxing match featured seven amateur fights

"If the alumni and students think that Texas A&M is going to ride down on a horse with wings out of the clouds and save us then they are wrong; it's up to us."

- John A. Mayes

yesterday in the Babydome. "I can't just sit around and watch the athletics at

Prairie View deteriorate," said Mayes.

"If the alumni and students think that Texas A&M is going to ride down on a horse with wings out of the clouds and save us then they are wrong; it's up to us," said Mayes.

Mayes developed an idea for the fundraiser after seeing many of his proteges at an area gym.

PVAMU's athletics program uses several sports medicine interns who receive rigorous training and often practice to hone their craft

at Houston's

See **BOXING** on Page 5

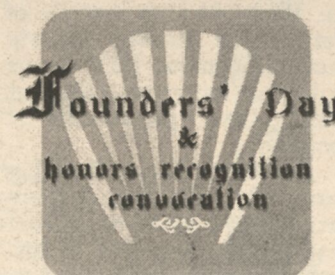
School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology hosts honors convocation, founders' day

By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

The Honorable Veronica Morgan-Price will help Prairie View celebrate its 125th anniversary as well as assist in honoring scholars of this historic school.

The associate judge of Houston's family, juvenile division court system was asked to be the guest speaker by officials in the School of Juvenile Justice and Psychology, who is sponsoring this year's honors convocation and founder's day program on Wednesday, March 28.

Each year a different division of the university is given the job to host the event which recognizes students who have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or greater in current spring or fall semesters. To qualify these students must have completed at least 12 semester hours.



In This Issue

NASDA conference a success.... see Page 5

2001 tennis outlook See Page 6

The return of 207's... see Page 7

•World•

U.S. dismisses land rescue plan**Harare, Zimbabwe**

AP-The United States called for an equitable land reform program in Zimbabwe and denied reports it secretly planned to compensate white farmers for properties seized illegally by the government.

The U.S. embassy, in a statement, said the U.S. government would only back redistribution "done in a sustainable and transparent manner." It described as "false" reports that the U.S. planned to contribute to a \$60 million fund proposed by dissident white farmers.

Parties accuse Burundi president**Arusha, Tanzania**

AP-The latest round of talks aimed at ending Burundi's protracted civil war appeared to be deadlocked Tuesday as both Hutu and Tutsi political parties accused President Pierre Buyoya of stalling the peace process.

Seven Hutu parties, 10 Tutsi parties and representatives of the Tutsi-dominated government and army began talks Monday in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, aimed at breaking a deadlock on who should lead the country through a three-year transitional period.

AIDS-afflicted Africa finding ways around**Abidjan, Ivory Coast**

AP-Far from the big courtroom battle over HIV drug patents in South Africa, the West African nation of Ivory Coast quietly imports knockoff generic HIV drugs as it has for years—without fuss, patent payments or apologies.

Ivory Coast has become one of the first African nations to negotiate at-cost deals for leading HIV drugs. And now the country has reached a new deal that is expected to bring down the cost of a month's HIV drug treatment.

Blacks earn more than whites**Johannesburg, S. Africa**

AP-For the first time since the fall of apartheid, blacks are expected to collectively earn more than their white counterparts this year, a study published Sunday has found.

About 77 percent of the country's 45 million people are black, white are about 12 percent.

•National•

Teen-ager admits beating pizza driver**Schenectady, N.Y.**

AP-One of three teenagers charged with beating a pizza deliveryman to death pleaded guilty Tuesday to murder and robbery.

Isaiah Curry, 15, is expected to get 10 years to life in prison, prosecutors said.

Police said Curry and two 16-year-old boys lured 38-year-old Domino's driver Hassan Noorzai to a vacant apartment with a bogus food order Nov. 28. The three beat him with baseball bats and stole \$15, police said.

The two other boys are awaiting trial.

Yale names first female dean**New Haven, Conn.**

AP-Emory University's Rebecca S. Chopp has been named dean of the Yale Divinity School, the first woman to hold the position.

Chopp, now provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory in Atlanta, will begin her new duties July 1.

"Rebecca Chopp brings an extraordinary array of strengths to her new position at Yale and we are extremely fortunate to have attracted a person of such distinction," Yale President Richard C. Levin said.

Teen to be moved to adult prison**Wheaton, Ill.**

AP- A Chicago teenager convicted of dropping a 5-year-old to his death from a 14th-floor window will be transferred to an adult state prison per his own request.

DuPage County Judge Robert Anderson Monday approved the request made by Jessie Rankins, 17, and officials at the Illinois Youth Center in Joliet.

Judge dismisses clothing lawsuit**Chicago, Ill.**

AP- A federal judge has ruled that a woman's clothing manufacturer can't collect damages from Nike Inc. and Michael Jordan for marketing clothing and shoes under Jordan's name.

Chattanooga Manufacturing Inc. filed a lawsuit in 1999 claiming Nike's use of the Jordan name was a trademark infringement because Chattanooga started a clothing line with the same name in 1979, before Nike entered its deal with the former basketball star.

•Regional•

Container bill passes**Austin, Texas**

AP-The Texas House on Tuesday gave tentative approval to a bill that would prohibit open containers of alcohol in the passenger areas of vehicles and beef up punishments for repeat DWI offenders.

The bill by Rep. Jim Dunning, D-Waco, makes knowingly possessing open containers in vehicles a Class C misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine. Containers in trunks or behind the last upright seat in vehicles without trunks would be allowed.

Street gets new name**Houston, Texas**

AP-Houston city officials couldn't bear to build a multimillion-dollar convention center hotel on Dallas street. So they're renaming part of the street.

The city on Monday revealed plans for a 24-story hotel between the new sports arena and an enlarged George R. Brown Convention Center. The hotel and convention center expansion will cost \$630 million.

Under the current grid, the hotel would have a Dallas Street address.

TSU fires coach**Houston, Texas**

AP-Texas Southern University has fired head basketball coach Robert Moreland.

Moreland, who was the winningest basketball coach in the school's history, was dismissed by athletic director Alois Blackwell.

This season, Moreland's squad went 7-and-22 overall and finished eighth in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Blackwell says he wants the next coach to recruit more Houston area players.

Officials seize three tons of marijuana**El Paso, Texas**

AP-U.S. Customs Service inspectors, in two separate busts, have seized a total of three tons of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$6.5 million.

Both busts involved technology—one an X-ray machine that can show the loads inside trucks and the other a density tester that can reveal hidden compartments.

The larger of the two seizures occurred Monday night at the Yselta cargo facility in El Paso.

Calendar of events

23 Friday

Pick up your copy of The Panther
TSU Relays, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 9 a.m.

24-25 Sat/Sun.

TSU Relays, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 9 a.m.

26 Monday

Apollo Night/Talent Show, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 6 p.m.

27 Tuesday

Panther Meeting, Harrington Science Bldg. Rm 105, Prairie View, TX, 5:30 p.m.

28 Wednesday

Lady of the Dove Pageant, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 7:14 p.m.
Honors Convocation, Baby Dome, Prairie View, TX, 10 a.m.

29 Thursday

Movie Night, Harrington Science, Prairie View, TX, 7 p.m.
Mass Collective Prayer, Waterfall, Prairie View, TX, 8 p.m.

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Can't we have just 30 minutes of *your* time?

Tavis Smiley's contract not extended; BET loses popular talk program



By **Sheleah Hughes**
Editor-in-Chief

Black people are paranoid. That's what I was accustomed to thinking.

Now wait let me explain.

I agree with the fight for reparations and affirmative action in any form is a must. But I will be the first to admit, I have seconded guess some of my brothers and sisters who claim they couldn't get a job because of the color of their skin, and even "uumphed" those who said they were followed in a department store because of their hair texture or skin color alone.

Call me a sellout because I thought maybe those things happened because the person didn't have the proper education, or maybe those shoppers wore their pants down around their ankles, used profanity and had suspicious behavior.

But after a few of my own experiences, I go on the record for saying, "Forget that, the blacks in America are fighting a war they won't ever win."

And now they got Tavis.

Yep, that's right the national television show, BET Tonight, hosted by Tavis Smiley will no longer be the

staple that many African Americans watch every night in search of current events, comic relief and political insight about their communities.

Just this week, Viacom, the owners of Black Entertainment Television, announced that Smiley's contract would not be extended after it expires in September.

It goes to show that if they can take Smiley - the man who gave the president of the United States the toughest on air interview during one of the most controversial sex scandals to ever hit the White House then I believe anything is possible.

Smiley has made his mark as an author, lecturer, television personality and political analyst. He is recognized as the voice of Black America, and has been honored by Time magazine as one of America's most promising leaders under the age of 40.

A graduate Indiana University and member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Smiley can be heard on the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show and through his own 60-second syndicated production, The Smiley Report.

Ebony magazine profiled him as one of black America's future leaders. But he doesn't have his 30-minute show anymore to continue educating or entertaining the community.

What does this mean? For people who loved Smiley's show, this nonrenewal means more videos, more idiotic sketches from Hits, the man on the streets and more Cita-

baby. If you like these shows then no problem, but if they are the only shows you can get - here is where the problem lies.

Where will African Americans be able to turn for news? With the deletion of this, BET will only have one news format program on its roster and over five music video shows and two talk shows.

So will the junk food of videos, gossip talk shows, and outrageous antics of the networks personalities nurture BET viewers?

No, and the way it looks BET is headed toward becoming a black version of MTV. But that is what BET regular patrons want right?

I don't think so. Can't the station squeeze 30 minutes out of the format to provide some news?

Although I am hurt, that I will not be able to watch Smiley scrape the minds of the hottest African American movie stars or music artists, and discuss exactly what President George W. Bush is doing to improve the status of Blacks in America, I really am not surprised.

A black man no longer owns BET.

Earlier this year, Viacom Inc. owner of CBS, MTV, UPN, Showtime Pay-per-View, Paramount Pictures, Infinity Broadcasting, publisher Simon & Schuster and Nickelodeon cable TV channels bought BET for an estimated \$2.3 billion dollars.

Robert Johnson's project has grown to become the largest companies owned by an African American and include things throughout the

entertainment industry.

BET assets include restaurants in Las Vegas, Maryland, Washington D.C., a dance club at Disney World Florida, and several magazines, including Honey magazine.

BET owners also manage a jazz music cable channel, publish books, produce radio programming, create movies and operate a web site.

Johnson will still have a large holding in the company, remain chief executive and chairman for the next five

years but most of the decisions will not benefit to him or Debra Lee, BET's president and chief operating officer.

When this transaction occurred many viewers and executives began worrying how this formerly black-owned black-operated cable television station that was created by Robert Johnson in 1979 would continue to fulfill its duties of entertaining and educating the African American population.

Their worries have turned into nightmares.

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Submission Policy

for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads **The Panther** can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

He hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in African American Studies.

The show travels on a special chartered bus that

For 15 years as spon-

There are 180 sororities, fraternities, and social and civic clubs that also support the fashion show, in ad-

Ebony Fashion Fair's Fashion Sensation is the world's largest traveling fashion show.

Students received awards for their performances in prose, oral interpretation, playwriting, extemporaneous speaking, dramatic monologue, original poetry and more.

May claimed the oratory category and tied for sports active wear competition. Hawkins received an award

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Harrington Science Building, room 105

Where can I get some tutoring help? In University College, tutoring is available Sunday – Thursday from 7:00 – 10:00 PM in Buildings 40, 42, 44, & 46 (see posting in your residential hall). Tutoring is also available in the Center for Academic Support, 2nd floor John B. Coleman Library.

State basketball tournament is an event in itself



By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

Before the start of Spring Break, I had the opportunity to attend the annual high school boy's University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Basketball Tournament in Austin, TX.

All I can say after the event is that I left impressed with the array of talent in Texas.

Even though I was there to cheer on my alma mater, the event is special because it closes the generation and racial gap between the fans. I can think of nowhere else where you would see 70-year-old and 23-year-old strangers discussing the game of basketball without interruptions.

Let's get to the main attraction which is the basketball game. The first night, I had the opportunity to check out the semifinal game between Willowridge and Converse Judson High Schools.

For those who do not know, Willowridge is the number one ranked team in the state of Texas and is ranked second nationally. The Eagles feature three guards who have signed division one scholarships and two of those guards have been named to the prestigious McDonald's All-American team.

Everyone from the ticket taker to the scoreboard operator thought the game was going to be a blowout from the start. Willowridge came out flat in the game's opening quarter and Converse Judson capitalized on it.

Throughout the game, Judson had no trouble scoring against Willowridge and was on the verge of pulling an upset. However, their coach changed the game plan in the final quarter and Willowridge fought back and eventually won the game in double overtime. I hope the coaches from PVAMU's basketball team attended the event.

Judson's point guard, Leonard Brown, held his own against Willowridge's All-American T.J. Ford. Brown played outstanding defense on Ford and could not be stopped in the open court. That game alone would have made me inquire about him. Brown will make a great addition to someone's collegiate program. (Anybody listening out there?)

The following day was just as exciting as the first. Several games that stood out were the Beaumont Ozen and San Antonio Lanier 4A final and the 5A final with Willowridge and Bryan High.

Lanier, who sports an unusual nickname called the Voks (a sprocket of some sorts), was severely overmatched in their game. They started out very slowly in the first place against Ozen and had to play catch-up the entire game.

With no player taller than 6-4, the Voks relied on fundamental basketball and timely outside shooting to remain close. However, the Voks succumbed to Ozen due to their abundance of height and talent.

The event meant something to me because of the variety of talent and atmosphere. I recommend basketball fans to check out next year's tournament.

Panther tennis teams looks to rebound despite several key losses

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

During the middle of their spring break last week, the Prairie View A&M men's and women's tennis teams kicked off the 2001 season with several matches on the campus of Southern University.

Even though both teams started off the season with several losses, the Panthers had several positives to build on after last weekend's matches.

The men's team, who had to overcome the graduation of a number one player last season, lost matches to Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Texas Southern.

Even though the outcome was not what the team would liked, the matches did give several players game experience.

Last season, the men's team had trouble getting matches in due to the lack of players among SWAC teams.

Senior Lovell Darnell assumes the team's number one spot and also the burden of responsibility that comes along with it.

"I have to improve my game

and also help improve the games of the rest of the team members," he said.

On the women's side, the Lady Panthers also picked up much needed game experience due to the abundance of new players.

With the graduation of several top players last season, the team looks to establish a foundation for the next several years.

Four-year letterwoman Timberly Gilford will be counted on for leadership.

"Coming from the number two spot to the number one is a big adjustment but I will accept the responsibility," Gilford said.

The team is coached by Robert Vanderbilt and first-year assistant Sean Cochran.

The team returns to action this Saturday with dual matches against Alabama A&M and Texas Southern. The matches start at 9 a.m. on the tennis courts.

Texas Southern University fires SWAC legend Coach was one win shy from reaching 400 wins

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

In a move that has sparked controversy among the masses, Texas Southern University has dismissed longtime basketball coach Robert "Bob" Moreland.

Moreland, who finished the year with a 7-22 record, was dismissed by TSU's recently hired athletic director Alois Blackwell. Blackwell said a change was needed in the program.

"It was a situation where I wanted to move in a different direc-

tion," he said. "In those situations, no matter what, it's always going to be tough."

Moreland's dismissal comes at a time when the program has hit rock bottom. After this year's dismal season, Moreland knew a change would come and he was not surprised.

"The reason given to me was that he wanted the program to go in a different direction," said Moreland who was told of the decision late Monday morning.

SPORTS

Panther Baseball

Last Game

UT-San Antonio 11
Prairie View 1

UT-San Antonio 8
Prairie View 4

Next Game

3-23 Southern 3 p.m. (DH)
3-24 Southern 3 p.m. (DH)

Panther Softball

3-23 Southern 1 p.m. (DH)
3-24 Southern 10 a.m. (DH)
3-30 Grambling 12 p.m.

Panther Tennis

2001 Roster

Johnny Chapman
Lovell Darnell
Ronnie Davis
Elvis Efamba
Ryan McGinty
Desmond Thomas
Tenille Cleaves
Bridget Dew
Tina Duhon
Dana Fitch
Timberly Gilford
Latoya Lackey

Former University of Houston assistant coach Byron Smith has been named interim coach until a replacement is named.

During his 26-year stint at Texas Southern, Moreland has won a NAIA championship and has took three of his teams to the NCAA tournament.

Moreland, a tenured professor, will remain at Texas Southern University as a faculty member.

Keeping 'Train of Thought' Veteran MC's up to new tricks

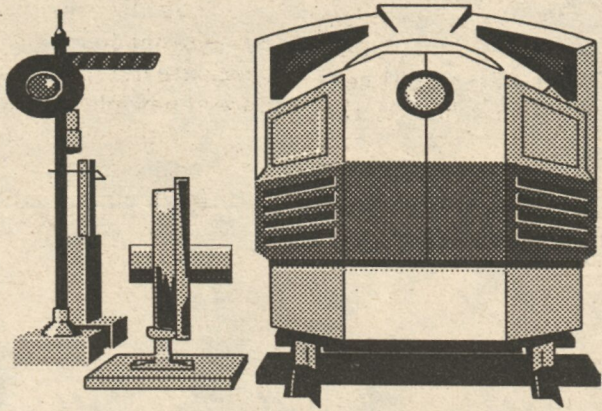
Nowadays it seems most M.C.'s and listeners alike are concerned with sex and violence. While it is true that these are great marketing tools, they don't do much in the way of solving the problems of over-sexed teens and violent youth.

Enter Talib Kweli & DJ Hi Tek as Reflection Eternal. You may remember Talib Kweli (pronounced Taleeb Kwa-lee) as one half of the group Black Star with his still present partner Mos Def, as in "most defiantly." They released their LP *Mos Def & Talib Kweli are Black Star* in 1998. One year later Mos released his solo effort *Black on Both Sides* to critical acclaim. Now it's time for this black star to shine with production extraordinaire DJ Hi Tek.

Train of Thought features cameos from Vinia Mojica, Les Nubians and the aforementioned Mos Def for a little mental elevation, and Rah Digga, Xzibit, and Kool G. Rap for thug appeal.

Whereas most "conscious" rappers choose to take us to the promised land without looking to see if we're following them, Kweli tries to bring the less enlightened travelers along.

While he is able to rap on both sides of the fence, he is at his best when on the conscious side. In the song "Love Language" he instantly breaks down male and female rela-



tions.

"Women thrive on emotions men refuse to acknowledge, so when we argue, nobody wins, words get in the way time and again," he says.

The songs "For (Four) Women," "Good Mourning," and "Eternalist" further prove this point.

One hit negative criticism about Kweli is that at times he gets too preachy. Some call this a problem, but others may think it's a gift. For the most part, *Train of Thought* is well worth the ticket.

By Lee Tillman
Asst. Entertainment Editor

20 Questions

1. If the Zetas have a pageant will that Alpha be in that one, too?
2. Isn't there a limit to the number of pageants you can have in a two-week time span?
3. How much money did Mr. Kemp make this week?
4. Will there be air conditioning at the Lady of the Dove pageant?
5. Why did the Alphas misspell the word "scholarship" on their programs?
6. Why was the AKA pageant so long?
7. But wasn't it a great deal to get a pageant and a Black history show for only \$5?
8. Did anybody go to the boxing match in the Dome?
9. Don't they know there's a boxing match every single day in the Village?
10. Why is 97.1 The Beat kicking shout outs to The Village?
11. Why is Destiny's Child talking bad about the ex-group members?
12. And why are they trying to say that "Survivor" isn't about those poor girls?
13. Aren't you glad we're getting a new SGA president?
14. Is it legal for The Village to charge \$500 a month for rooms the size of Cracker Jack boxes?
15. Why does administration want this to be a walking campus when they all get golf carts?
16. Did you know they're building a Popeye's Chicken next to Jack in the Box?
17. Why was the debate on our fee increase held in College Station?
18. Why is it that once the sun comes out PV turns into Club PV?
19. If it gets any hotter, do you think some of these people will decide to run around naked?
20. What do you think?

We want to know what you think. Please submit any questions you may have to The Panther, Suite 23 Drew Hall. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

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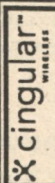
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Commentary

Freedom comes by knowledge, not by emancipation proclamation

By Lee Tillman
Assistant Entertainment Editor

During President George W. Bush's campaign speeches, we heard many promises: more tax cuts, the promises of leaving no child behind, and a safer America for our kids among others.

President Bush even proclaimed that he would restore the party of Lincoln.

I must say this is the one he's going to pull through on.

Let me explain myself.

After hearing him say this we assume that he is referring to the Abraham Lincoln of history books; the same man who freed the slaves; the Lincoln, who in his famed Gettysburg Address, stated that "all men are created equal;" the Lincoln who brought the Union back to-

course you won't find that in your history books.

You want to know who freed the slave?

Frederick Douglas.

His many debates with the President lead Lincoln to sign the papers and thus "freeing" the slaves.

In 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation but it did very little.

He didn't believe that blacks could live in the U. S. as equals.

"What next? Free them and make them politically and socially as equals?"

My own feelings would not admit this."

Besides, what does Emancipation Proclamation mean?

Emancipate means to free.

Proclaim means to announce.

Lincoln announced

school.

Freshmen, don't get hung up on you new found freedom and let life pass you by.

To everyone in between, embrace your past and

build your future on it.

To all, remember nobody is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them.

Nobody is going to teach you about your true his-

tory or ten you your heroes if they know that that knowledge will set you free.

As long as we expect American schools to educate us, we will continue to remain ignorant.

Nobody is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them.

-Lee Tillman

gether.

We assumed that this is to whom he referred.

May I suggest that he actually is referring to a not-so-famous Abraham Lincoln.

An Abraham Lincoln that had little to no concern for our situation.

Don't believe me.

In a reply to editor Horace Greley in August 1862, two years after he was elected, he openly stated, "My paramount objective in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or 'destroy slavery'."

"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it..." is exactly what Lincoln said but of

that we were free.

If I proclaim that the sky is green and it's not, then does it matter what I say?

It wasn't until years later that there was a law made to back up the proclamation but Jim Crow Laws didn't do much.

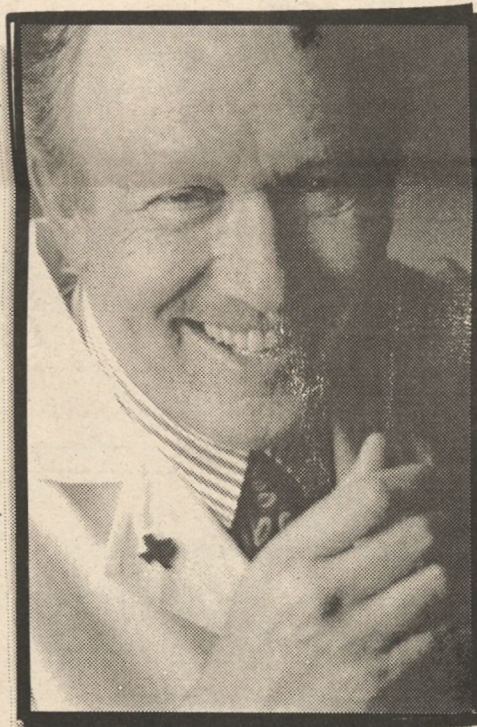
I say that to say this-Bush may just restore the party of Lincoln, but when he does--Black America needs to watch out.

Who the President is (or should be) makes no difference because no president ever freed us.

This is exactly what I beg you not to forget.

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